



Seed Mussel Survey Report update for the Wicklow Area – 25 to 30/07/2013

Vessel: MV T'Burke (BIM), Skipper John Murphy, Survey Officer Nicolas Chopin

Equipment: 400 kHz side scan sonar, 1 meter dredge.

Area surveyed: From Six Miles Point to North Brittas Bay to the North Arklow Buoy to the India North Buoy

Survey summary:

No seed was found during the earlier survey (April/ May) in Wicklow, only few signs were observed around Seapark Point/ Ardmore Point. Due to cold spring, there was the possibility for a later settlement of larvae.

A second survey was then carried out at the end of July. No seed was found in the areas where few signs were found earlier. The side scan sonar was deployed between two formerly covered areas, but no possible seed features were observed. The data shows a lot of large stones outcrops which makes dredging difficult.

An area between north Brittas Bay and the North Arklow Buoy was check but only stones were found.

Finally, a large area north of Wicklow Head was check but again no seed was found.

Bottom type: the seabed around Wicklow has not shown any signs of improvement since last year, very little life was observed on the stones south of the Head. Fine sand is piling up behind the Horseshoe Bank.

Nicolas Chopin
Inshore Survey Officer
BIM Aquaculture Technical Section

Note for the map:

TW stands for Tow Wicklow

GW stands for Grab Wicklow

In the legend dgd stands for dredge

In the legend gb stands for grab

Seed Survey Map for Wicklow Head Area - April/ May 2013

